

I am a sign language interpreter and the owner of Sign Shares, an agency providing sign language interpreting throughout the Greater Houston Gulf Coast Region of Texas. I am in total support of Video Relay Services which allow persons who are deaf and hard of hearing to utilize the telephone system using their first language, ASL.

In saying that, I also feel compelled to comment that there are too many "smoke and mirror" activities taking place. Use of Video Relay Services are being taken beyond the telephone, to be used as interpreter services for anyone anywhere.

The spirit of the ADA is to provide access to programs and services. Relay is intended to provide access to telephone services not to every program and every service in every venue. \$7.75 a minute is too high a price to have hand held interpreters at anyone's disposal at any time.